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Paul F. Cranefield / Walter Federn

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C O N T E N T S

Paulus Zacchias on Mental Deficiency and on Deafness
Paul F. Cranefield and Walter Federn 3

The Effects of Anesthesia and Cardiac Bypass on
Pulmonary Compliance in Man
*Bernard R. Hand, James R. Malm, Frederick O. Bowman, Jr., and
Stuart F. Sullivan* 22

Christianus Helwich on Difficulty of Respiration (Augsburg, 1722)
Saul Jarcho 34

On Clinical Medicine: With Notes from the Diary of a Part-Time
Researcher
Alfred Vogl 39

Statement by The New York Academy of Medicine on
Methadone Management of Heroin Addiction 61

Astérix the Gaul 62

Unpublished Papers of Thomas Hodgkin 67

A Few Comments by Aristotle , 70

AUTHORS ALONE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS

SAUL JARCHO, *Editor in Chief*

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ABSCESSSES OF THE LIVER;
THE DANGER OF MOVING
THE PATIENT

NEVERTHELESS, both of these circumstances, which are not to be met with in those histories, has so often occur'd to physicians, and among others, to my preceptor Albertini, that he press'd it very earnestly upon practitioners, not to suffer a patient to be mov'd when there were symptoms of an abscess already form'd in the liver; not because he was ignorant that motion has been prescrib'd, at this time, by authors, who are, in other respects excellent, which I also read has succeeded happily sometimes in our memory; but because he suppos'd, that without using motion, it would, probably, happen, that the pus of an abscess so ruptur'd, without injuring the membrane of the liver, might be carried down to the intestines, through the branches of the biliary duct; and because from a contrary practice, he foresaw how easily the external membrane of the liver might be ruptur'd, so that the pus should be pour'd out into the cavity of the abdomen, and kill the patient instantly, by bringing on a syncopé.

For this he remember'd to have happen'd at Bologna, at the time he was a young man, when an excellent physician, and, at the same time, an eminent surgeon, following the practice of those authors, had prescrib'd motion to a virgin who had a suppuration in the liver; by which means the pus being pour'd out into the abdominal cavity, the patient died soon after, in the arms of the women by whom she was supported. And he had afterwards observ'd the same thing to happen, even without motion, at least with a slight motion, such as we naturally used in bed, or while we are rising from bed, in several persons, but particularly in a noble marquis, who had an abscess in the concave part of the liver. . . .

J. B. MORGAGNI: *The Seats and Causes of Disease*. Translated by Benjamin Alexander. London, Millar, 1769, vol. 2, pp. 185-186. (Letter 36, Article 6.)